

Community Service Award Finalists

This award recognizes SGA member companies that have gone the extra mile in service and outreach for their communities.

Entry Requirements	Judging Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service Award may be directed at either domestic or international problem-solving. • Nominations must honor a specific action, decision, program or initiative (philanthropic monetary donations alone are not eligible). • Each entry must demonstrate definite, substantive results during the eligible calendar year. • A member company may nominate more than one activity. • Programs that have previously received an SGA Community Service Award are not eligible. • A previous winner may submit a different program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and Plan of Actions Clearly Defined and Executed • Measurable Results • Originality and Innovativeness • Corporate Leadership Involvement • Lasting Company Impact • Program Sustainability • Employee Involvement • Fun Factor (If Applicable)

Submissions Overview

Community Service Award Finalists		
Company Name	Program Name	ID Number
Atmos Energy	Fueling Safe and Thriving Communities: Promoting Childhood Literacy	CS-6
Atmos Energy	Week of Giving	CS-7
Boardwalk Pipelines	Boardwalk Scholarship Program and Education Grant Program	CS-9

Nomination CS-6	
SGA Member Company Name	Atmos Energy
Program Name	<i>Fueling Safe and Thriving Communities: Promoting Childhood Literacy</i>
Program Description	<p>We believe in making a difference in the lives of children by collaborating with local school districts and education foundations to provide resources to help students read at grade level by third grade. Third grade marks the shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn,” which means deficient readers are at greater risk of falling behind. According to research, kids who enter school ready to learn are more likely to read proficiently by third grade. Furthermore, according to research, students who read on grade level by third grade are five times more likely to graduate ready for success in college or career. Children in underserved school districts are more vulnerable to falling behind in grade-level reading proficiency and remote and hybrid learning necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these vulnerabilities to an even greater degree. To improve third-grade literacy scores, Atmos Energy partners with United to Learn, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and many other nonprofit organizations dedicated to this cause. Atmos Energy also partnered with local education foundations to provide book vending machines to local school districts. Book vending machines hold up to 300 books and provide a variety of different types of books from beginner to advanced reading elementary levels. In addition to providing students easy access to literature, they also serve as a great reward system for kids for good behavior, good grades, and good attendance.</p>
Results of/Response to the Program	<p>Among our many partnerships to promote childhood literacy, our support for United to Learn provides one tangible example of the impact we’re making. Since 2020, Atmos Energy has partnered with United to Learn to sponsor its annual Learning Launch program. Learning Launch equips teachers in 47 Dallas ISD elementary schools with critical learning resources that are not addressed through limited public school budgets, including physical objects that aid understanding of writing, books organized in levels of difficulty for an emergent reader, tables, and rugs. At this year’s kickoff event at Harlee Elementary School, we presented United to Learn with a \$50,000 donation to benefit Learning Launch, which will help support 26,100 students and more than 2,100 educators. We will also offer our employees volunteer opportunities to help United to Learn with their childhood literacy efforts.</p>

<p>Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”</p>	<p>We aim to encourage the love of reading by retaining all the important elements of storytime: read-along pacing, life lessons, and a visual connection between words and text. In the fiscal year 2021, in partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and Vooks, a streaming service exclusively dedicated to animated storybooks, approximately 116,000 free one-year Vooks subscriptions were provided to elementary school students and teachers. Vooks brings children’s books to life with animated illustrations and narrated stories, making reading a more accessible and rewarding activity for parents, children, and teachers.</p>
<p>SGA Membership Category</p>	<p>Distribution</p>

<p>Nomination CS-7</p>	
<p>SGA Member Company Name</p>	<p>Atmos Energy</p>
<p>Program Name</p>	<p><i>Week of Giving</i></p>
<p>Program Description</p>	<p>Every year, our extraordinary employees work together during Week of Giving, an event that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars, as part of our commitment to Fueling Safe and Thriving Communities. Held Sept. 13 through Sept. 17, 2021, Atmos Energy’s Week of Giving was filled with opportunities to support United Way, No Kid Hungry, and The Salvation Army through fun team-building activities including virtual Bingo and Kahoot! games hosted by senior leaders, competitions for free Paid Time Off days, and Fueling Safe and Thriving Communities swag purchases, among many other opportunities that evoke a healthy competition between employees to raise much-needed funds. In addition, funds were also dedicated to impact Homes for our Troops, an organization that builds and donates specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 veterans, helping them to rebuild their lives.</p>
<p>Results of/Response to the Program</p>	<p>Atmos Energy employees pledged to donate \$827,495 during the company’s annual Week of Giving campaign, to benefit United Way, No Kid Hungry, and The Salvation Army. Doubling the financial impact for these essential organizations through its Fueling Safe and Thriving Communities initiative, Atmos Energy matches all employee donations to these vital nonprofits – bringing the total amount raised to more than \$1.6 million. These funds, distributed across the eight states Atmos Energy serves, are focused on three key beneficiaries: students, heroes, and neighbors.</p>

<p>Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”</p>	<p>Embracing the mission of each organization, Atmos Energy employees believe strongly in supporting United Way to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community; No Kid Hungry to support school districts, food banks, and after school programs with a promise to eradicate childhood hunger; and The Salvation Army to assist approximately 23 million Americans annually in fighting addiction, poverty, and homelessness.</p>
<p>SGA Membership Category</p>	<p>Distribution</p>

<p>Nomination CS-9</p>	
<p>SGA Member Company Name</p>	<p>Boardwalk Pipelines</p>
<p>Program Name</p>	<p><i>Boardwalk Scholarship Program and Education Grant Program</i></p>
<p>Program Description</p>	<p>Boardwalk is proudly committed to the communities we serve. We provide educational opportunities for students in the regions where we operate through two programs. To advance the educational opportunities for local elementary and middle school students, Boardwalk has an Education Grant program. This program is open to any elementary and middle schools located on a property where Boardwalk operates its pipeline systems. Eligible schools can apply for an annual grant to use for equipment, special programs, or other education-driven endeavors. Boardwalk also offers a scholarship program for seniors who attend high schools located near our pipeline right-of-way. One eligible student from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.</p>
<p>Results of/Response to the Program</p>	<p>There are 61 elementary and middle schools on our pipeline system that are eligible to receive Boardwalk’s annual Education Grant. During the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, a check for the full grant amount was sent to all eligible schools without the school administrators having to request it. There are 35 high schools that are eligible for Boardwalk’s Scholarship Program. Since 2013, 246 high school seniors have received a scholarship award. In 2020, we sent an additional cash donation to all 61 schools and 35 high schools to assist their COVID-19 safety efforts.</p>
<p>Contribution to</p>	<p>Boardwalk’s Education Grant Program and Scholarship Program</p>

“Connecting People, Ideas & Information”	seek to provide resources to improve educational programs and aid students in pursuing educational opportunities.
SGA Membership Category	Transmission